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*US*

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/176,171 10/21/98 CHENG

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ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2736

DATE MAILED: 07/12/99

CORPORATE PATENT COUNSEL  
U S PHILIPS CORPORATION  
580 WHITE PLAINS ROAD  
TARRYTOWN NY 10591

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No. <b>09/176,171</b>	Applicant(s) <b>Cheng</b>
	Examiner <b>TOAN PHAM</b>	Group Art Unit <b>2736</b>

Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_.

This action is **FINAL**.

Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

#### Disposition of Claims

Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above, claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.

Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.

Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.

Claims \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

The proposed drawing correction, filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is  approved  disapproved.

The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

All  Some\*  None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been received.

received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) \_\_\_\_\_.

received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\*Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_

Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

#### Attachment(s)

Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_

Interview Summary, PTO-413

Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES ---

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## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

2. Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 9 and 12<sup>-13</sup> are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Le Van Suu (5,714,933).

Regarding claims 1, 6 and 9: Le Van Suu discloses a system for protection of goods against theft comprising an electronic appliance (2a-2c) having an appliance component for effecting a primary function of the appliance that is independent of security (see Fig. 1); and a status reporter (3a-3c) for actively and conditionally communicating a status of the appliance (2a-2c); an alarm activation processor (5), operably coupled to the status reporter (3a-3c), for receiving the status and effecting an alarm response dependent on the status and dependent upon a rule base associated with the appliance (col. 3, lines 19-61; Figs. 1 and 2).

Regarding claim 2: Le Van Suu discloses the second appliance (2b) with a second appliance component for effecting a second primary function independent of security; and the alarm activation processor (5) is integrated in the second appliance (see Figs. 1 and 2).

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Regarding claims 5 and 12: Le Van Suu discloses an area security device (13) for detecting an area status of area wherein the activation processor is also operably coupled to the area security device (13) and further effects each alarm response dependent on the area status (col. 4, lines 8-22).

3. Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hall et al. (5,898,831). Hall et al. discloses an interactive appliance security system comprising the steps of storing a rule base associated with the first appliance (121, A) at a second appliance (121, B), communicating a status of the first appliance to the second appliance, determining an alarm response at the second appliance based on the rule base and the status of the first appliance, wherein the first appliance has a first appliance function that is independent of security and the second appliance has a second appliance function that is independent of security (col. 14, lines 29-54; col. 15, lines 23-44).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person

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having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 3, 4, 7, 8, 10 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Le Van Suu (5,714,933) in view of Hall et al. (5,898,831).

Regarding claims 3 and 4: Le Van Suu does not disclose a respective HAVi and Home API-compliant module; however, Hall et al. discloses an interactive appliance security system including security devices such as a personal digital assistant, television, radio, copier, computer, etc. (col. 5, lines 55-65) which are home and office systems that are programmed and interfaced to work with one another to provide a security monitoring system (col. 14, lines 29-54; col. 15, lines 23-44). Thus, these devices are programmed to work in compliance with one another. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a security system for the home or office in protecting the appliances with programming capability as disclosed by Hall et al. in a system as disclosed by Le Van Suu for providing a programmable compliance module that interact and work with one another to provide an addressable network and corresponding security system.

Regarding claims 7, 8, 10 and 11: See claims 3 and 4 above.

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*Conclusion*

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- Cummings et al. (5,406,260) discloses a network security system for detecting removal of electronic equipment.
- Hollenberg (5,694,335) discloses a secure personal applications network including a base node microcomputer and a network interface.
- Hubbard (5,021,916) discloses a theft deterring security system for attachment to powered appliances.
- Mueller (5,142,269) discloses an electronic component theft sensor and security system.
- Reeder et al. (5,729,596) discloses an electrical appliance including an identity module which carries a code for identity through a telephone network.

7. Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

**or faxed to:**

(703) 308-9051 or (703) 305-3988, (for formal communications intended for entry)

**Or:**

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(703) 305-3988 (for informal or draft communications, please label  
"PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal  
Drive, Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Examiner Toan Pham at telephone number (703) 306-3038. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 7:00am-5:00pm.

If attempt to reach the examiner by telephone is unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffery Hofsass, can be reached on (703) 305-4717.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-8576, Mon-Fri, 8:30am-5:00pm.

Examiner: Toan Pham

Date: June 22, 1999

  
DANIEL J. WU  
Primary Examiner  
7/1/99